

7365, Shelbyville Central School Corp

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Shelbyville Central Schools is committed to offering educational experiences for all students which develop literacy, critical reading, and the ability to process and synthesize information in all content areas through the use of digital media. Through the analysis of student performance data from local/state assessments and curriculum maps, the need to infuse technology into regular instructional practices has been determined. We believe technology integration will happen if we remove barriers, incorporate pedagogy, and provide professional development and support for teachers and students.

The number of students living in poverty has grown significantly over the last five years. There is a growing number of Hispanic students in our school community as well as large special need population. In all three subgroups, there are significant achievement gaps. (mClass, Acuity, ISTEP, ECA)

First and foremost, our goals focus on students' needs to be successful in the 21st Century. Through this grant we will be able to increase teachers' ability to integrate technology to improve academic standards and student achievement. Several variables will be evaluated throughout framework of this project:

- *Student Achievement (assessment data)
- *Student Motivation (surveys, attendance, dropout rates)
- *Integration and Use of Technology (Curriculum maps, eWalk-walk through data, student products)
- *Use of technology based data to drive instruction

To ensure the successful implementation of this project, we have established three critical partnerships.

The partnership with IUPUI (Joanna Ray and Dr. Beth Berghoff) will provide for ongoing professional development in terms of on-site in-services throughout the year and summer as well as learning opportunities through modules and wikis. Shelbyville Central Schools is also fortunate enough to partner with the University of Notre Dame (Karen Morris) through the Indiana AP Teaching and Incentive Program. Through this initiative, we plan to evaluate our AP courses for rigor, relevance, and technology integration as well as increase the number of students taking and passing AP exams. For four years, our corporation has partnered with Purdue University (Bill Walker and Dr. David Fiehne) to train teachers in the Shared Inquiry Method in Math/Science and Legos. This grant would bring the technology initiatives to the next level.

The research study, Bring A Nation Online, illustrates the importance of the Internet and communication technology in education today. It notes the gap between the information haves and the have nots (digital divide). Shelbyville Central is determined for our students to HAVE the academic achievement and career preparedness to successfully compete in the digital world.

(St. Joseph)

Students at St. Joseph School are struggling with writing skills, reading comprehension, and math skills, which include algebra, measurement, and geometry. Technology needs to be implemented in the classroom to teach the teachers how to foster critical thinking and to improve the areas mentioned above. Professional development opportunities will be pursued to help teachers provide an environment that includes technology.